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NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL)

Smart Libraries

The Smart Libraries project, **http://www.valleylibrary.ca**, has been well received by library users as shown by such patron's comments as "Just wanted to pass along that this website is simply fantastic. Congratulations should go to all who put it together and the user friendliness that the site now holds...Great Job!!!" and "Absolutely a great website. We (myself, and my 2 daughters aged 11 and 10) use it quite often and it has been very user friendly. Great design. Thank you so much for making our library time that much easier."

Promotion of the web site has been welcomed at approximately 33 different locations, including many junior and middle schools. The schools have been so enthusiastic about the services offered that AVRL's Catherine Whitney will continue promotions this fall with visits to the area's high schools.

AVRL's Charlotte Janes has been asked to speak at the Library Boards Association/Nova Scotia Library Association Conference in October, as well as at a Community Access Program

Conference. These workshops are in partnership with WCRL.

The focus for the fall will be on enhancing the homework help sections of the kids and teen pages by providing annotated lists of web sites arranged by subject as well as lists of books appropriate for that age group.

Features of the site are being improved and developed on a regular basis.

Community Access Program (CAP)

The CAP program was a great asset to AVRL this past summer with most libraries offering one-on-one computer tutorials and kids' programming.

CAP sustainability funding will be used to hire three program coordinators from Sept. 16, 2002 to March 3, 2003. These coordinators will deliver computer related programming to eight AVRL branches. In addition to the program coordinators, the funding provided for the services of an overall part time supervisor as well as some money for supplies and travel.

Branch Services Report

AVRL experienced an incredibly busy and productive summer! In addition to the Middleton Library expansion held in July, August 29 was the official celebration of the completion of construction of the Dr. Frank W. Morse Memorial Library in Lawrencetown. The Branch was built entirely through funds made available from a private donation of the family of the late "Dr. Frank", a well-loved family doctor and member of the community. August 29 was "Dr. Frank's" birthday, hence the date of celebration. This beautiful library opened on September 19, and offers a program/meeting room, wheelchair accessibility, a larger collection of material, and new computer workstations.

Through HRDC funding, Summer Program Directors were available in the following branches: Middleton, Kentville/Port Williams, Wolfville, and Windsor. New and innovative ideas, and new community partnerships, resulted in interesting and creative programs. For example, in the Windsor area, the library partnered with Haliburton House to offer two children's programs - *You've Got Mail: a guide to stampcollecting*; and, during the Sam Slick festivities, through the assistance of the Kentville Recreation Department, a tent housing Victorian Parlour Games was available for children of all ages.

Other interesting programs offered by AVRL included: Drama Troupe (ages 5-8 and 9-12)); Scientific Discovery (ages 9-12); Musical Madness; Reading (and other) Tutoring; Nature Club (included outdoor activities); Science Club; Activity Days; Young Writers' Society (closing featured a tour of Gaspereau Press); numerous Story and Craft times. The provincial Summer Reading Program theme was *Books,Our Faithful Companions/ Les Livres, Nos Fidℙles Compagnons* and many of AVRL's programs tied the subject of pets (also faithful companions)

and books together. One Bridgetown special event featured a library visit by 3 Icelandic ponies and their riders!

Also, as a result of HRDC funds and through co-operation with other CAP sites, computer-related programming was made available in AVRL branch libraries over the summer. These included one-one-one tutorials, story times and crafts, and special events.

Through Smart Communities/Smart Libraries funding, an AVRL staff member was available to offer presentations on the Library's website **http://www.valleylibrary.ca** and its services to both schools and CAP sites. Over 1600 students and adults attended these sessions.

Cape Breton Regional Library (CBRL)

Adult Learning at CBRL

An Open House was held at the McConnell Library on Friday, September 13 to celebrate the first provincial International Adult Learners' Week. Local authors and illustrators came together with an enthusiastic audience to talk about how a book develops, how illustrators work with authors, and how to get published. As well, members of the public were invited to read their favourite poem and talk about why it is special to them.

The library has been a key to life long learning for many people in the Cape Breton community for over fifty years. In the last few years new learning opportunities for adults have been added. Through the ten-seat Gates Computer Centre the library offers adults the computer training they need to get started learning the basics of Word, Internet, e-mail and more. Software for learning keyboarding skills allows people to work at their own pace. Computer-based GED preparation software gives adults a way to develop the skills they need to complete the GED tests. Along with the software, a teacher is available to provide the support needed. All these services are free to residents in the community.

Many people have taken advantage of the adult training opportunities available at the library and have had wonderful success. One person was able to improve their typing skills so quickly that they obtained a job they wanted with a local company; a former steel plant worker who had left school in grade ten to work, successfully completed his GED and was hired for an excellent job with a local cultural tourism site; a woman who had been out of the work force for twenty years while raising her family obtained a GED and graduated in the spring of 2002 with a diploma in Information Technology from the Community College. These are just a few of the success stories to celebrate from the Gates Centre at the McConnell Library in Sydney.

2002 Summer Reading Programme (SRP), *Books, Our Faithful Companions/ Les Livres, nos fidPles* was a lot of fun. CBRL registered 1,152 children in the SRP, with 686 completing the required number of books and reading a total of 11,525 library books!

Craft and Games Days were held throughout the region in conjunction with the SRP.

Closing parties were held at all library branches, where reading certificates and prizes were presented to children who had read at least eight library books throughout the summer. One very lucky 11 year old summer reader was Caitlyn Murphy who won the mountain bike donated by the Cape Breton Post. The bike was on display for most of the summer, and acted as an incentive for children to join the program.

Moving in! The new Florence Library re-opened at the end of September. (In July 2001, the Florence Branch sustained extensive damage due to fire. The books and materials were professionally cleaned).

Colchester-East Hants Regional Library (CEHRL)

Tempus fugit never seemed more true than now. Summer whizzed by and, hard to believe, autumn activities are upon us!

Youth Services Programs

This summer's reading club and programs were very popular. The reading club welcomed 681 members and attendance at various events was impressive. The club theme of *Books, our faithful companions/LesLivres, nos fidPles compagnons* inspired several programs on our other faithful companions, pets. At the Truro launch event, a local veterinarian showed x-rays and talked about the care of pets; a pet store worker visited Elmsdale and Stewiacke libraries to talk about and show furry, feathered and creepy crawly creatures, to enthralled audiences. In Truro, more than 100 met the *Reptile Man*, not to mention his 12-foot Burmese Python (!) and more than 50 came to see and learn more about the work of a seeing eye dog. A magician gave two shows to enthusiastic audiences in Truro and Stewiacke to close the summer reading club.

Mondays in July and August saw CEHRL's mobile library visit three rural communities in East Hants - Maitland, Noel, and Upper Rawdon - to bring the reading club and special activities to the area. On average, 33 youngsters participated each week. One Monday, a special volunteer accompanied staff. A young man, visiting and volunteering in Nova Scotia under the Nunavut Youth Abroad Program, enjoyed his day with the mobile library.

For teens in the Truro area, summer at the Library started with a mystery play. The Truro Police Chief's jacket, a judge's robes, and the Truro Mayor's gavel were important props. Fourteen teenage boys participated and a few days later the father of one of the boys commented to Library staff that his son, who was "dragged to the program" had enjoyed "one great time".

Book Buddies, launched this summer in Truro, matched teens with younger buddies who needed extra help in reading; feedback has been very positive and the program resumes on October 11.

For the younger set, a special summertime *Toddler Time* took place in Truro. At the end of the two-week session each child received a board book, puppet towel and soap, courtesy of the RCMP and the Truro Police Service through the *Adopt-a-Library Literacy Program*.

Treasure chests, once again thanks to *Adopt-a-Library*, appeared in all CEHRL branches. Before digging for treasure, the children had to do one of the following: write a book review, draw a picture from a story, write a pet story, or rate a book.

In the coming months, CEHRL plans to offer a new infant program, *Baby, Me and Mother Goose,* in partnership with the family resource centre, *Maggie's Place*. Wal-Mart donated a playpen to the Library for the program, once again thanks to *Adopt-a-Library*.

Family Literacy

Given their passion for promoting reading and their work with children, parents, and caregivers, CEHRL library staff welcomed the opportunity to participate in an important family literacy project. Working with the Adult Education Coordinator, Northern Region, for the Department of Education, CEHRL staff developed and submitted a successful proposal to the National Literacy Secretariat and received a grant of $48,370. Under the project, *Family Literacy in Nova Scotia: a Strategic Approach*, the library will hire, house, and undertake the day-to-day supervision of the project coordinator. The successful candidate will coordinate a family literacy advisory committee, research programs that focus on family literacy, produce a document that articulates good standards in family literacy initiatives, and develop an action plan to advance family literacy in Nova Scotia over a 40 week term.

Truro Branch Renovations

This summer renovations to the meeting rooms and the Gates Learning Centre on the lower level of the Truro branch created three distinct rooms. Now activities in the computer lab and in the auditorium can take place simultaneously and, as an added bonus, the youth services program room has been enlarged. CEHRL staff designed the new layout and the project has resulted in a much better use of the space. However, the need for a larger building continues to grow.

Cumberland Regional Library (CURL)

This year's Summer Reading Club was CURL's most successful to date with 486 children participating, which translates into a 12 percent increase over last year. Programs relating to the Reading Club pets theme were offered throughout Cumberland County and included Reading Club kick off parties in Springhill, Pugwash, and Amherst, stories & crafts in Parrsboro, Oxford, & River Hebert, and computer camps in Springhill and Advocate. Branches offered programs at least once per month while Amherst and Pugwash offered weekly Reading Club activities. Pugwash branch's *Monday Fun Days* proved to be so popular that a morning and an afternoon session had to be offered just to accommodate everyone.

A pilot project in the Amherst branch entitled *Teen Book Bingo* proved to be a good way to get teens to read and succeeded in doubling the young adult circulation throughout the summer. Plans are underway to roll out the program to other branches next year.

Computer classes resumed in all branches in mid July thanks to another LMDA grant. This grant is for one year with the goal to have a minimum of two training days per branch each month. Successful workshops were offered in Amherst on PowerPoint and how to use a scanner.

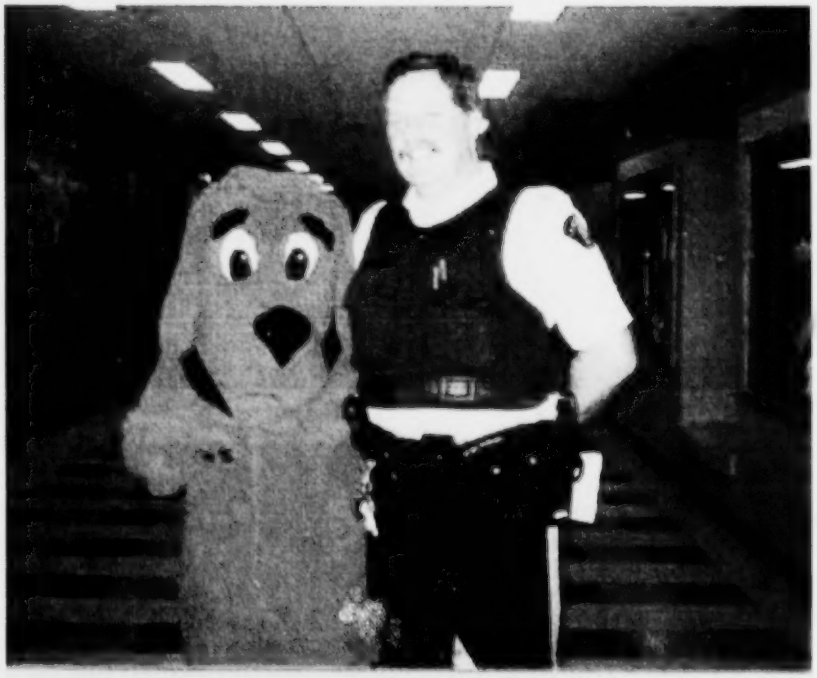
Beverly Fenton was hired as the Library's Outreach Services Clerk and she has been instrumental in conducting the Pugwash Library's Fun Days, as well as assisting with the

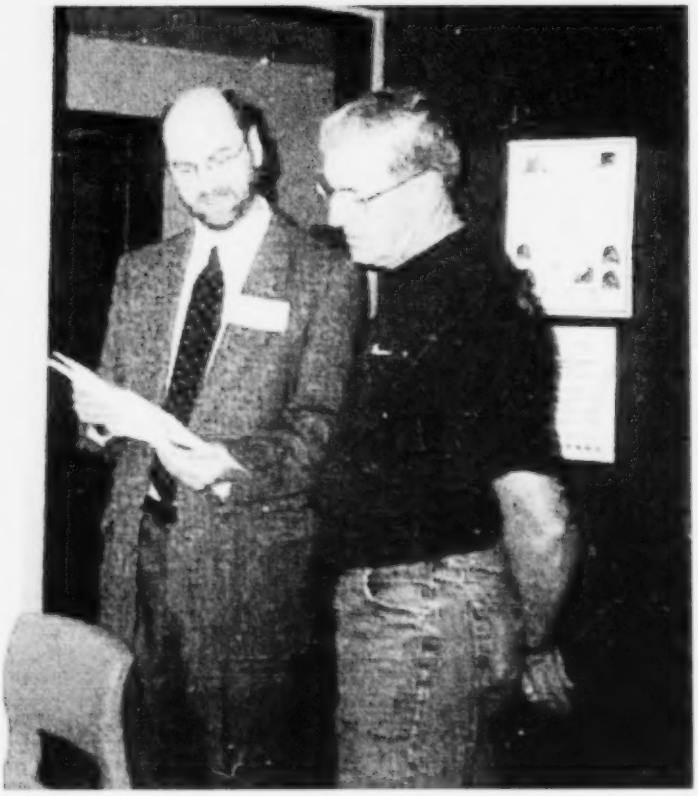
Summer Reading Club activities. This fall Beverly will work on activities for Public Library Week and coordinating activities in all branches.

In response to the province-wide survey distributed this summer, the Pugwash and River Herbert branches have extended their hours to include Saturday mornings to better serve their patrons. Now all library branches in Cumberland County are open on Saturday.

Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL)

The Summer Reading Program was an unqualified success at ECRL. In Canso, the program was launched at Fanning Education Centre with the help of Sandra Dixon, Canso Branch Library Assistant, and Richard Langille, RCMP representative and supporter of the Adopt-A-Library program.





An Open House was held recently at Centre LeMoine in St. Joseph du Moine. Dave Cumby, Acting CEO, and Leandre LeBlanc, President of LeMoine Development, operator of the St. Joseph du Moine Community Centre, looked over ECRL's new web catalogue handbook at the re-opening of the newly enhanced centre and Libr@ry Links site.

Thanks to funding provided by the Canada Council for the Arts Literary Readings and Festivals program, ECRL recently hosted a Fall series of readings by Antigonish author Wenda Young. A writer of fiction, Ms. Young has published several poems and short stories for adults, and has received literacy recognition for her young adult novel, *Angels in the Snow*, as a finalist for the 1999 Ann Connor Brimer Award, the children's literature award in Atlantic Canada.

Ms. Young visited with high school students at Dalbrae Academy, Cape Breton Highlands Academy, Strait Area Education Centre, and St. Mary's Academy, sharing with the students her ideas and insights on both the art and the craft of writing.

ECRL is preparing to launch its Fall fund raiser, *Share a Book-Build a Community, 2002.* The campaign, developed to enhance ECRL's collection, promote reading, and focus on the library as a community centre and place for life long learning, has received corporate sponsorship from EnCana to the tune of an initial donation of $3,000, and the offer to match community donations up to a maximum of $2,000. EnCana is the largest North American-based independent oil and gas company, created in April 2002 through the merger of two of Canada's leading exploration and production companies, PanCanadian Energy and Alberta Energy Company. EnCana is a key player in Canada's emerging offshore East Coast basins, where the company is developing the Deep Panuke natural gas project.

The launch of the campaign in October will also coincide with the launch of the *Virtual library* catalogue and request services. The new services will be promoted at Public Access Computers within branches and Libr@ry Link sites, as well as to area schools, C@P sites, community groups, businesses and individuals with internet access.

Halifax Regional Library (HRL)

The Library Visits Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) Classrooms

HRL is helping HRM students get off to a good start this school year by introducing, or re-introducing them to their local library branch. During October, HRL staff are working towards

putting a library card, pictured below, in the hands of as many HRM elementary students as possible, by visiting HRM schools and sending kids home with registration forms. Once registered, the students are invited to check out what's happening at their local branch: great programs, computers - complete with Internet access and great software, and an extensive selection of current and rentable videos, CDs, DVDs, books and more.

HRL's library card

Summer Reading Club 2002 Another Great Success!

HRL has successfully wrapped up yet another extremely popular Summer Reading Club. The Program, always a popular and successful event, is also widely recognized as a positive tool in the quest for children's literacy and learning. Reaching thousands of families across the region, this year approximately 5,500 children participated.

Parents this year, as in others, have been enthusiastic about the program, which just celebrated its 20th year of serving children in the region. The following are just a few of the many positive reactions received by library staff:

"It benefited my child in the most wonderful way. This kid has never read so many books. Now he's hooked on reading and my gratitude is Extreme!! Thanks Library!"

"I appreciate the enthusiasm of the library staff in regard to the reading my child has done. What a great motivator!"

Research shows that summer reading has a positive effect on children's school achievement. Children who read during the summer not only retain what they learned the previous year, but actually increase their overall reading and vocabulary skills.

His Worship Mayor Peter Kelly presents a Summer Reading Club gift bag to two students from Sackville Heights Elementary School.

HRL Wins Award for e-branch

HRL recently won Industry Canada's LibraryNet *Best Practices* 2002 award. The award, which is divided into five categories, recognizes the innovative use of the Internet by Canadian public libraries. HRL won the award for e-branch, it's full-service website, under the category of *Electronic Service Delivery*.

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL)

The New Glasgow Library will host a special evening in October with the Canadian Federation of University Women. This program will feature the second in their Notable Speakers series with guest speaker, Wayne MacKay, President and Vice Chancellor of Mount Allison University. Mr. MacKay's address is called *Human Rights Challenges, Old and New*. PARL hopes to providing a venue in the future for more talks of this nature.

In a further effort to foster new community partnerships, PARL has recently offered its support

to the newly formed Plaid Marquee film society of Pictou County. Operated by a six - person committee, which has met regularly in the New Glasgow Library Program Room, the group was able to arrange a showing of four sold out movies. As a non-profit organization, the society will donate the profits to PARL, which will use the funds for the ongoing development of the video collection.

In keeping with the Library's goal to provide a location for local culture and historical information, PARL's Virtual Library shows a new web page featuring the life-long achievements of Dr. Carrie Best. Created by Sheryl Grant, an employee of the Chronicle Herald newspaper in Halifax, the web site includes a number of insightful topics that highlight the accomplishments and legacy of this New Glasgow-born human rights activist and writer. A grant from the Newspaper Association of America Fellowship made this project possible. The site is a welcome addition to PARL's growing Virtual Library.

In the same vein, PARL has just posted a web page entitled, *Pictou: Nova Scotia's Northern Sea Port*. Sponsored by PARL and LibraryNet, this recent project provides the opportunity to highlight the rich historical past of the Pictou County shire town. Constructed by PARL's LibraryNet employee, Melissa Mills, the project is a digitalization project of the book of the same name, which was first published in 1916. The site contains a great deal of informative text, as well as black and white images.

The Friends of the River John Library Society recently won the Friend of the Year award for 2002. Sponsored by Random House Canada and presented each year during the annual Canadian Library Association (CLA) conference, the award is given to a Friends of the Library group which demonstrates outstanding community and volunteer involvement. This past June, CLA was held in Halifax and representatives of the dedicated group were present to be recognized and share their experiences of promoting the interests of a small, rural community. The Friends of the River John Library Society raised funds for the construction of the River John Library and Innovation Center. Opened in April of 2001, it is a model for rural public libraries, boasting the best of traditional library services combined with the latest in technology. PARL recognizes their achievement and congratulates them for this much deserved award.

In July 2002, *Read By The Sea* authors gathered at St. George's Presbyterian Church in River John. Left to right: Lynn Coady, Herb Curtis, Leo MacKay Jr., and Ann Simpson.

For the third year running, PARL received the Best Practices award from Industry Canada's Library Net. This year, the recognition was for the category of Electronic Service Delivery for PARL's innovative online contest, *Search And Win*. In this interactive contest, participants were invited to find the answers to a series of research questions, e-mail their replies, and then be eligible for prize draws.

This past summer, through the assistance of the local HRDC's Summer Career Placement fund, 12 technical trainers were hired to provide computer assistance and training in PARL's branches. At PARL's Stellarton branch, the trainer took part in making an Internet Safety Program CD, which will be delivered to students in grades four to six. The CD will alert the students of the dangers associated with internet surfing and chat rooms. Initially conceived to meet a local need to educate younger internet users, the program is now being considered as a pilot project which may see it utilized around the province by RCMP community outreach officers. At the New Glasgow branch, the trainer hosted a successful Cyber Camp for youth.

To help facilitate new federal regulations regarding the use of pleasure boats, PARL's CAP office now offers the new online Boater training exam at all PARL branches. PARL also provides proctor service for individuals requesting the Pleasure Craft Operators license online exam.

The Pictou County Chamber of Commerce has nominated PARL for the 2002 Information Technology Action Group Technology Achievement Award for its work in various community projects. The award winner will be announced at the Business Achievement Awards Ceremony held in October.

South Shore Regional Library (SSRL)

SSRL is pleased to welcome Cheryl Stenström to the position of Branch/Extension/Services Librarian. Cheryl, who has over 10 years of library experience, previously held management

positions at public libraries in Kitchener, Ontario and Vancouver, British Columbia.

Cheryl will manage Library Branches in Bridgewater, Liverpool and Lunenburg, supervise special services like the Home Library Service, talking books and interlibrary loans, and will coordinate the Library's computer network. Library borrowers will benefit from Cheryl's experience in collection development and systems management.

"I'm pleased to be working on Nova Scotia's beautiful South Shore," says Cheryl. "The advent of two new branches in Lunenburg and Liverpool make this an exciting time to join the South Shore Regional Library and I am happy to be a part of the new virtual library services that are available to our borrowers." Virtual library services allow a borrower to get a library card, search SSRL's catalogue and request books from his or her home computer.

Western Counties Regional Library (WCRL)

The big news is summer reading! The number of kids who participated went up eight percent from last year and 2001 was a banner year! WCRL's libraries hosted 65 programs/activities for children such as crafts, stories and special guests like "Gator" the police dog and "Wallace" the seeing eye dog. Winners of our McTrivia game this year were: Victoria Scott from Digby County, Keagan Nickerson from Shelburne County and Christopher Deveau from Yarmouth County. All received a bicycle and a helmet compliments of McDonald's.

Keagan Nickerson from Shelburne County was one of the lucky McTrivia game winners.

Another happy young McTrivia game winner shows off his bicycle and helmet.

HOT TIPS AND UPDATES

INTERNATIONAL ADULT LEARNERS WEEK

Nova Scotia's public libraries participated in the celebration of International Adult Learners Week September 8-14. The Theme of the week was *What Did You Learn Today?* The goal of the week was to promote adult learning and to celebrate lifelong learning. Friday was the day for libraries to showcase their involvement with adult learners.

To show the role public libraries play in lifelong learning, they have contributed the following "testimonials".

From regional library staff:

- **Staff assisted a non-reading patron who wanted to learn to read so she could do new handicrafts, so we worked with that sort of material. When she went to cookbooks to expand her meals, a staff person actually went to the grocery store with her to assist with labels and ingredients so she could try new things. Once she became a grandmother she wanted to read to her first grandchild so we worked on a lot of children's books.**

- **A CAP employee tutored a seventy-six year old woman who had never touched a computer before in her life. She had recently suffered from health problems that prevented her from continuing to play golf. Most of the first two-hour session involved a lot of *ohhhhhs* and *ahhhhhhs* at every little task the computer performed. Paint Brush was the main attraction at first, but as the month went on, with weekly two hour tutorials, the woman became more and more independent, often taking risks of playing around with different menu options to see what they did. Her pile of notes and questions each week were increasing ten fold.**

- **One woman with no previous computer experience signed up for a student one-on-one program and has been coming weekly since May. She learned how to keyboard using one of the programs on the Internet, and she spent some time on Internet searching. She has been upgrading her office skills with the hope of getting a job. She is now checking job opportunities on-line.**

- **A number of adults use the resources in the library to learn English as a Second**

Language. One couple, in their late 20s, began with every Asterix book we could get our hands on. They have now started to request and read Juvenile chapter books and we can see their spoken English improving and their confidence soaring.

- **A couple enrolled in a French course needed a specific dictionary. The university bookstore was sold out and the regular bookstore was very expensive. They found it at their local public library. The borrowed it, renewed it several times, and made it through the course with flying colours!!!**

- **A Mobile Branch borrower from a rural community who had little education, a spouse and three children at home used the Mobile to prepare for the GED, which she passed. She was accepted at Community College and graduated as a nursing assistant. She now has a job in Home Care.**

From the mouths of learners:

- **"As a senior, to be given the chance to be introduced to the computer through the library was an opportunity just too good to miss.... and for my father who is over one hundred years old, the large print books gave him hours of pleasure for which we are both very grateful. To say that our librarian and her staff are helpful and friendly is an understatement. Rather, they have become friends who help in every way conceivable. My congratulations go out to everyone involved and I hope the wonderful work and atmosphere will always be there."**

- **"I am a single mom with a university education. I wanted to live my life balancing work and being available for my five year old daughter. I discovered a home-based business that tied together my interests, experience and education background. The training for it was an eight week long distance-course to be done on the Internet. I do not have a computer nor did I have experience with more than word processing. Because of my local library I was able to learn the skills needed to complete the course, as well as create posters, fliers and other advertisements for the business. I always felt welcomed and comfortable at the library and so appreciated the 'extra mile' treatment I received from staff.**

  I am going to be able to have the kind of work that fulfills me and be able to be actively involved in my daughter's life. Thanks to the library, librarians and the

accessibility to technology in a rural area, a special program for children will be available here and I am a happy mother and a contributing member of my community."

PARL WINS CANADA POST COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

During recently held International Literacy Day Awards ceremonies, PARL's *The Adopt A Library Literacy Program* won the Canada Post Literacy Award -Community Leadership. Fred Popowich won the Nova Scotia Department of Education's Community Literacy Volunteer Award for the Northern Nova Scotia Region.

Left to right: RCMP Constable John Kennedy; Minister of Education Jane Purves; and PARL's Fred Popowich shown at the International Literacy Day Awards ceremonies.

The following is an article by Joel Jacobson written for his BRIGHT SPOT column, which appeared in the Wednesday, September 18 edition of the Chronicle Herald. It tells the story of one woman's fight to make a change in her life through literacy. The Disseminator has received a one-time permission to reprint the article, courtesy of The Halifax Herald Limited.

"Woman breaks cycle of illiteracy.

GLADYS BRIGLEY wipes a tear from her eye.

"She's had such a hard life. She really deserves this. She's put her heart and soul into it for so many years."

Her daughter, Patricia Connors, 43, has just received the 2002 Canada Post Individual Literacy Achievement Award presented on International Literacy Day to recognize someone who overcame social or economic barriers caused by lack of literacy skills.

Six years ago, Truro resident Patricia says she was just existing. She was a bad kid growing up in Halifax and spent a few teenage years at reform school. When she was released, things were no better. With a Grade 7 education, she turned to drugs, alcohol and prostitution.

"I was doing nothing with my life and had a son, 15, whose life seemed to be going in the same direction. That pushed me to go back to school and get an education," Patricia reflects. "I needed to break the cycle of me, my brother (Gordon DeWolfe, who won the Canada Post Literacy Award four years ago) and even my mother, who has a visual impairment and only finished Grade 8."

With a slight visual impairment herself, and support from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Patricia completed a Braille and academic program. She earned a certificate in human services from Nova Scotia Community College, Truro campus, and last spring, graduated with honours from the college in child and youth care.

"In two months, I had a job with Colchester Residential Services, working with mentally challenged adults," she says proudly. "My main focus is to work with youth."

Son Barry, now 21, dropped out of school after Grade 9. He's in an academic upgrading program at the college. "If my mother didn't decide to go back to school and change her life when she did, I'm sure my life would be different. She inspired me to go back."

As Patricia accepts her award, she credits Gordon for being her inspiration. "Seeing his success drove me to keep going."

Her goal, she adds, has been "to give people what I never had - compassion, understanding and hope."

"We were quite poor, but my mother gave us the best she could, mostly love."

The Canada Post Community Leadership Award is presented to Adopt-a-Library Literacy program through RCMP Const. John Kennedy of the New Glasgow detachment, developer of the program.

He urges more corporate and government support to match sponsorships with libraries and reward children who read.

"The police are fighting crime, one book at a time," he tells the Literacy Day audience. "Will we be successful? I don't know. Should we try? Yes!"

He insists children who are encouraged to read and develop literacy skills today are more likely to avoid jail tomorrow.

"Cops can do this program because we can get our foot in the door. People tend to listen."

John started the program when he was in Dalhousie, N.B. "I was in a cold hockey rink. I asked a librarian, who had a son on the same team as my son, then eight, if she had any new books for him to read and she said, 'No! There's no budget.'

"I suggested raising some money, and when I approached our detachment to help, it was a piece of cake."

He says everyone knows there's a literacy problem and problems with young people.

"Now when I meet people and ask for money for books for kids, they trip over themselves to give. There are no administrative costs. Every penny goes to buying books."

Half a dozen elementary schools in Pictou County run fundraisers to buy books for libraries, says John. Last year, Salt Springs Elementary School, for example, raised $1,000 during a Quiet-a-Thon that offered five hours of kids' quiet in return for pledges.

As Literacy Day ceremonies close, North Preston's Maureen Smith sings the uplifting Keep Holding On. Two hours earlier, at the opening, she sang I Believe I Can Fly. In brief remarks, Patricia Connors echoed the song to sum up her feelings.

"I have spread my wings. I am soaring." She adds, "We all face challenges. But if we believe in ourselves and have the support of family and friends, I believe we can all fly. "I'm overwhelmed with what I've accomplished. I feel anything is possible. I could never

have imagined life would be this great."

Friday, a Halifax woman volunteers at an Ontario camp for children with HIV or AIDS "

Contact Bright Spot via e-mail at jjacobson@herald.ns.ca or phone 902-426-0128 or fax 902-426-1158.

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SUMMER READING PROGRAMME (SRP) 2002, ANOTHER SUCCESS!

The numbers are in and they tell the story of another successful SRP for 2002! Well over 13,000 young readers registered province wide for the SRP. This year's theme was one of pets and books, always a winning combination, with the slogan *Books, our faithful companions/Les livres, nos fidèles compagnons*.

The $10,000 corporate sponsorship donation from CIBC was used by all Regions to purchase additional promotional incentives, which proved to be a bonus. This was especially beneficial for the rural regions, who on the whole saw an increase in participation in the program.

The SRP concluded with the annual *Bags of Books* draw, sponsored by Tattletales Books Ltd., Penhorn Mall, Dartmouth. The winners this year were Nakayla Fraser from AVRL in the preschool to age six category; Phillip MacKinnon from ECRL in the age seven to nine category; and Jamel Cromwell from WCRL in the age 10 to 12 and up age group.

WORD ON THE STREET

The eighth annual Word on the Street (WOTS) festival was held for the second consecutive year at the weather proof Pier 20. The Nova Scotia Provincial Library (NSPL) once again hosted a booth, which was shared with the Hackmatack Children's Choice Award. Mary Landry, ECRL's Public Services Librarian and Sharon Palermo, author and Hackmatack board member volunteered their time and talents to help staff the booth, along with Arlene Watts, NSPL, and Norene Smiley, coordinator of the Hackmatack Award. Summer Reading Programme (SRP) promotional items, such as t-shirts, sweatshirts, mousepads and the very popular washable tattoos were prominently displayed and offered for sale. Posters and bookmarks for Public Library Week, taking place October 21 to 27 were distributed to visitors to the booth, as well as Hackmatack brochures and posters. A colourful display of some of the titles nominated for the Hackmatack 2003 helped to draw visitors to the booth, where they were invited

to fill in a ballot to win a backpack of Hackmatack and SRP goodies!

REFERENCE ON THE NET

Here are some more reference questions which were referred to the Provincial Library by the Public Libraries and answered with help from resources found on the Internet.

Q. Would like information about an American abstract artist in the 1950s named David Atkins.

A. The *AskART.com site* at http://www.askart.com/ was the only site that could be found with information on this artist. It gives some brief information on his date of birth, geographic location and style as well as listing six books where more information on him can be found.

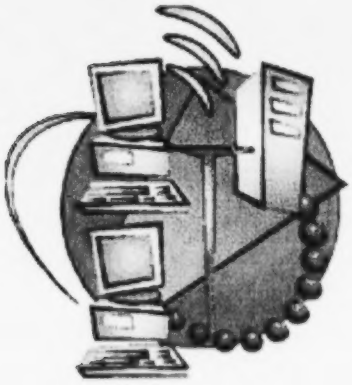
Q. Would like to take a course in herbal medicine either in Nova Scotia or through distance education in Canada.

A. *SchoolFinder.com,* a Canadian site at http://www.schoolfinder.com/ has information on over 700 Canadian universities, colleges and career colleges. In Program Search enter "herbal". The results list indicates which of the courses found are distance education courses. The *TeleCampus Online Course Directory* at http://courses. telecampus.edu/subjects/index.cfm lists courses from around the world which are available over the Internet. Go to the Advanced Search page and type herbal in keywords and select Canada in Country box to get a listing of suitable courses.

The Nova Scotia Dept. of Education's web site has a page of *Registered Private Career*

Colleges in Nova Scotia **at http://pcc.ednet.ns.ca/schools.shtml. You can browse through the list for colleges of Natural Medicine.**

LINKed



October is Women's History Month in Canada and this year's theme is *Women and Sports - Champions Forever! / Championnes un jour, championnes toujours! Les femmes et le sport.*

The Women's History Month page is at http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/whm/index.html on the *Status of Women Canada* web site. In the *Products available and information on Women's History Month* section there are fact sheets and quiz games on Women's History and Sports. Here are some other web sites with information on Women's History and Sports.

The National Library of Canada **web site has two pages with information on women - *Canadian Women's History: A Selective Bibliography* at http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/2/12/h12-220-e.html and *Celebrating Women's Achievements: Women in Canadian Sports* at http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/2/12/h12-239-e.html. The latter site has biographical information for sixteen Canadian women athletes.**

Canadian Women in History **at http://www.niagara.com/~merrwill is by Susan Merritt, the author of *Her Story: Women From Canada's Past* and the sequels *Her Story II* and *Her Story III*. The right side of the site has *Women from Canada's Past*, which has brief biographies of important Canadian women and references to books about them.**

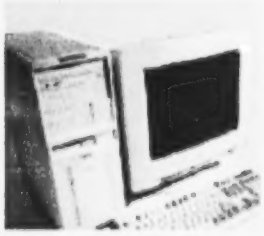
Early Canadiana Online **has a large number of full text books on Women's History. Information on the kinds of books, which are included, can be found at http://www.canadiana.org/eco. *Canadian Women's History Collection* http://www.canadiana.org/eco/english/collection_women.html. To search for these books go to the search page at**

http://www.canadiana.org/ECO/mtq and search by subject for Women's History. This retrieves nearly 700 books with Women's History as a subject heading.

The Canadian Women's Internet Directory **produced by Womenspace Association has a Sports section at http://directory.womenspace.ca/Sports and a *Herstory* section at http://directory.womenspace.ca/Herstory.**

Web sites which were featured in previous *Linked* columns are arranged by subject category on the Reference Services page of the Provincial Library web site at http://www.library.ns.ca/services/reference/index.htm. If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact Carol Morris at morrisc@gov.ns.ca.

PROFESSIONAL READING



In this month's column, two books of particular interest to public libraries are featured. These items can be borrowed through regular interlibrary loan channels. Please send requests via email to Dale MacMillan at inshpl@nshpl.library.ns.ca.

Benson, Allen C. - *Securing PCs and data in libraries and schools : a handbook with menuing, anti-virus and other protective software.* New York: Neal-Schuman Pub., 1997. Call #: PROF 005 8 Ben

The author discusses how to write and implement security policies, outlines how hackers attack public access computers, addresses both Windows and DOS security issues and details Internet-related security problems. Step-by step solutions are offered for all kinds of problems. Readers will be able to garner a basic understanding of problems they may face in the future and how a proactive approach can be developed to meet those difficulties.

Durrance, Joan C. - *Online community information: creating a nexus at your library.* Chicago: American Library Association, 2002. Call #: PROF 025 .04 Dur

This book addresses the ways that libraries can harness the power of the Internet to provide digitalized community information to local audiences. Using the proven methods illustrated in this book, any library can design, build a dynamic and unifying

community information site. Examples of the best practices from libraries around the United States are featured.

Credits go to:
Joel Jacobson BRIGHT SPOT, September 18/02; reprinted courtesy of The Halifax Herald Limited.

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Comments on or suggestions for The Disseminator should be directed to Arlene Watts at **wattsam@gov.ns.ca**

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